Informant:	**LMP-S2**	**Spanish**
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Interviewer:	**Claudia Hernandez**	
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CH: I wanted to start by asking you in regards to the party/festival you had for San Simon and I wanted to know if we can start from the very beginning to the end and talk about how you did all things you did. For instance, when I got there you had sage incense and then you had other types of …(inaudible)…How was it…what is the organizing process that takes place?

S2: That goes according to the ceremony, the very spirit guides…it asks for things, according to how the energy or the vibration feels

CH: So it was not planned?

S2: No, it's something that goes according to the way the ceremony just develops

CH: So, in some other time, because I noticed that when we entered, they did like a *limpia* on us with sage and we had to give some sort of respect to San Simon and then they gave us a *limpia* and then another *limpia* and the garlic (*ajo*) was cleaning everything and so I thought, that maybe that you had predetermined which *limpias* would be done.

S2: No, it goes according to the way things get presented, like when asking for different things.

CH: So the spirit…

S2: The spirit guides you. You have to see what you want to do and how you should do things.

CH: So he was present?

S2: Yes, because if the telephones to lose their battery power and all of them, which was…

CH: The one in the house too?

S2: Yes, so I cant explain what happened.

CH: In the *limpia* you performed with herbs, the first one, what where the herbs that you used to do the *limpia*? If you can remember.
S2: (laughter)

CH: You don't remember? In the second *limpia* I think you had more herbs.

S2: there was rue (*ruda*), sage (*salvia*), buttercup (*boton de oro*), (*rompe saraguey*), carnation (*clavel*), (*obelisco*)

CH: In the second one?

S2: Yes, I think so.

CH: Because …(inaudible)…When you did the second *limpia*, one of the caterpillars got stuck on me. And I got home with a little worm like this.

S2: That's good.

CH: That's what they told me, that it was good luck. And I noticed that when you did my *limpia* you mentioned my studies and all that and I was bit surprised because it was very specific to me, it was very special, is it always different for each individual?

S2: Yes.

CH: It's something very specific to the person?

S2: Yes, you ask for things in accordance to the person or the vibration or what the very spirit guides you to do. If you're asking from it then you are receiving the vibration and energy of what you are asking for it, so we are trying to unite those two powers. That's why we tell you to ask for things.

CH: And what is the significance in touching the table?

S2: Ok, the significance is that you are greeting, you are greeting him, you are rapping on it so that he may hear you. It's to like a open the door.

CH: And San Simon's birthday is most special to ask for things?

S2: Yes, very special, because he is stronger. You can feel the vibration a lot stronger.

CH: So, I wan to recapitulate what we did: We arrived; we lit the cigar, why did we do that?

S2: because those are his customs, where you have to smoke to him and drink, you know, toast with him.

CH: And the garlic (*ajo*) that was in the small griddle, where there other herbs? I also noticed that when you were done with the cigars they…

S2: They are burned…

CH: …you put them there. Is that something that San Simon asks for or that you know how to do?

S2: It's something I know how to do. It is a Nordic custom, it's a custom that was used for the Christmas festivities, where you would write your letter to Santa Claus and so they would take the letter in the chimney so that the request would elevate/fly faster. So when you are smoking you are asking, you are praying, that is what we use the cigar for, to ask for things, to pray, we are asking for good things and so for them to come quicker you have to (clapping sound), have it elevate/fly.

CH: So that is the first part of greeting San Simon, smoking the cigar and going to go knock for him and to ask him for something …(inaudible)…?

S2: Yes

CH: And I also remember that another one of the phases of the ceremony was when you gave us black (pendants?) (note: not sure if the words is pendants, pearls or something else) to put over our bodies, to work against enemies.

S2: Yes

CH: How does that work? Is that something San Simon guided you to do?

S2: Yes

CH: In that moment?

S2: yes

CH: I noticed that you had different people of different classes where all present. The young man told me a bit of how he met you. Has he been your client since some time?

S2: Yes.

CH: Ever since from when he said, he said four years.

S2: yes, four years

CH: And he always goes to the festivities?

S2: No, that was his first time.
CH: And the ladies?

S2: Some of them yes some others no.

CH: What nationality are they?

S2: He is Hindu, well American, but his family are Hindu. There were Guatemalans, El Salvadorians, Mexicans.

CH: The lady that did your *limpia*, what's her name?

S2: Her name is Sarita.

CH: Why was it she that gave you the *limpia*?

S2: because she practices the same, so…

CH: so one Curandero will do a *limpia* to another?

S2: Yes

CH: She has a botanica as well?

S2: No

CH: She only practices out of her home?

S2: Yes, she is retired.

CH: where is she from?

S2: Guatemala

CH: I notice that when she did the *limpia* on you, she gave you over most of the body but mostly over the operation, that's to clean it?

S2: Yes, to heal.

CH: And in the griddle where the garlic (*ajo*) was, it was just that and the sage and the cigars?

S2: Yes, charcoal (*carbon*) it had some.

CH: that odor stayed on…

S2: It's penetrating isn't it?
CH: after one has gone through the *limpia*, is it recommended that one go home and take a shower?

S2: Depends on what you are told, there are some *limpias*…well it depends on what they help you with, there are some *limpias* where one can not go shower, you have to sleep with it or sometimes you have to go days without showering.

CH: Oh, because a few weeks back, 2 or 3…no maybe a month ago, another one of the curanderos gave me a *limpia* and he told me that I could not shower that same day, that I could the next day. But the *limpias* that you gave us for the San Simon festival, you did not…

S2: No, because if the spirit doesn't recommend it then…

CH: OK, well just in case that same day I did not shower.

S2: (laughter)

CH: Let me see…and in the end you give the cake to San Simon?

S2: Yes.

CH: On my way out, there were some ladies dancing, did he ask that they dance?

S2: yes

CH: …(inaudible)….I heard you say that …(inaudible)…like them to dance, and likes the prostitutes.

S2: He likes the prostitutes, he likes people of the lower echelons, he likes liquor, he like parties, he like the prostitutes a lot.

CH: How did you meet San Simon?

S2: That's a bit…well working with the spiritual, I always used…I would shun away all that had to do with the spirits because our belief is that he is the type of spirit that can do good as well as bad. So, they always taught me that he was a not a convenient spirit, because he could…lots of controversy, I had many experiences with him. Because he…he…the first time he came to me, when I went into trance, in one of the misas that we did. He came down and he asked me to work with him. He asked me a great deal. He sometimes would send me messages when he would come down into someone that knew me. So that's when I started working with him.

CH: And what was your first experience that he entered your body?

S2: It was at a misa of a dead Guatemalan woman, who had died. And she used to work with him. She would go into trance with his spirit and when she died her sons gave her a spiritual misa for her elevation. And they blamed him for attacking her and for the manner in which she died. They blamed him. And so when he came down, he came down

very mad and upset and saying that they were a bunch of ignorants and know-nothings. A very strong spirit with a very strong power. In reality I did not know how he worked or how he came down, he came very aggressively. That was the first experience I had.

CH: …(inaudible)…you realized that…(inaudible)…working…

S2: No, because there are trances that are semi-… a type of a half trance, a semi-trance and a complete trance. So, you can go into a partial trance, you can be conversing with someone and be in a trance. I could forget all about what has happened. I can be conscious but it's not me.

CH: Your conscious but…(inaudible)…

S2: Yes, I can't remember what happened. Or I know that I'm in a trance but it's no longer me. You don't have control even if you want to open your eyes, you cant because it's no longer you, your body does not respond to you.

CH: And in that occasion where you were in trance…

S2: I was conscious because I could hear everything around me but I did not see.

CH: And afterwards were you able to remember?

S2: Yes, many things and since we taped it with a cassette not a video, because sometimes the spirit doesn't allow you to record. The only thing that was recorded was the audio. Every time that I go in to a trance, the tone in my voice changes. Every time that a different spirit would come down, the tone would change.

CH: Drastically?

S2: yes, one changes.

CH: When we were in the San Simon Festival where you in trance?

S2: I was in a semi-trance.

CH: but you were conscious?

S2: yes

CH: but after all that you remembered everything?

S2: there are many things I don't remember, because what I was doing…well it was a lot of energy I put out for having been recently operated on.

CH: Yes you were very active. And I noticed that you were…well it was you but…well you were not like you are now where we are just talking. It wasn't until the end of it all that I could talk to you, but at the beginning I felt that you were really busy with the all the work or something…

S2: The spirit posses, that's why I was cleaning that's why I was doing all that. It was the spirit that was present.

CH: I don't know if the word is Disconcentrated…(inaudible)…not isolated but more internal, that's the word I'm looking for. You were more internal. It was something I noticed.

S2: Yes it gets transmitted, you feel the force, because when you go in trance you do things that you sometimes ask yourself where you got the energy or strength to do that. Because I was going up and down and cutting herbs and all this soon after being operated…

CH: It was a lot.

S2: it was a lot. And to organize all that and to do all that I feel like it was a lot. Because in my condition…well I had been recently operated it was…

CH: …(inaudible)…

S2: Yes

CH: And so San Simon comes down on you frequently or…?

S2: No, But in that moment it felt right. And he could have come down on any person that was present there. Maybe some organization is needed

CH: Is it possible for a spirit, like San Simon, comes down on someone who has never received a spirit?

S2: Yes, because, you're not conscious that you can take on a trance. You are ignorant to that, so all of a sudden the vibration and/or energy can be strong and you may fall into a trance, without you even knowing about it or even thinking about it. It's happened to me in meetings, with people who have no experience in that, with people that are new to that. All of a sudden they can fall into a trance, that's why when you conduct a meeting there has to always be a guide. That guide is aware and keeps track of what is going on, because a spirit can take you and you've never had that before and that could be dangerous. That's why you have to be 'cleansing' (limpiando) constantly to ward away or to permit that positive things come, that's why there is the garlic (*ajo*) and the smoke (*humo*), to ward away the bad, because we were out in the open and on a hill which is where the energy is stronger and where rituals are done the most. So there you can get more positive things, that's why I had the incecense constantly lit, so that nothing bad

would present itself. So I was warding away, these are things, how do I explain that…they are spiritual, and with all that has happened with all these deaths and all that has occurred, the spirit is unbound. It is unbounded right now, there is lots of energy, there can come good spirits and negative ones, these can become bounded and there could be destruction in the very place where the meeting is taking place and that is what you have to be careful with and be prepared for.

CH: You know the story of San Simon? How…(inaudible)

S2: There are different versions and truthfully I know very little about that.

CH: You just know him?

S2: yes, there are many versions of how he was found. They say that they had a made Judas and so, well the little that I know of that is that some kids began to cry because they were going to burn it and they asked for him not to be burned and he began performing miracles and people began to ask for things. Other say, it was an indigenous witch. There are many versions, but the real one, I don't know it.

TAPE ENDS